

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 28, 2020 Public Hearing
Testimony Submitted by Judith A. Lhamon, VP, LWVCT Advocacy

Support for:

SB233 AAC Elections
SB234 AAC Voter Privacy Protection
SJ15 Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting
HB5278 AA Revising Certain Absentee Voting Statutes
HB5283 AAC Municipal Ethics

Opposition to:

SB241 AAC Auditing of Election Day Registration

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization committed to effective public policy, the active involvement of citizens in their government and improving the electoral process. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the bills before you today.

Support for:

SB233 AAC Elections

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to improving the electoral process and maximizing voter participation. The number of voters wishing to use election day registration can be highly unpredictable, opening the opportunity for long lines and many citizens denied the opportunity to register and vote. We continue to support elimination of a requirement to call the former town, if an EDR applicant was registered in another CT town, and allowing individuals in line by 8:00 to be processed and admitted. As part of maximizing voter participation, we support the restoration, without the payment of certain fines, the electoral privileges of convicted felons who are on parole. We continue to support capturing electronic signatures so that some forms--like absentee ballot applications--can be submitted online, similar to online voter registration. *The League supports SB233.*

SB234 AAVC Voter Privacy Protection

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to the use of voting procedures that are secure and ensure the integrity of, and voter confidence in all aspects of registration and the voting process. While voter privacy is of particular important to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or privacy, current concerns about cybersecurity have led to general concerns about privacy of information. *The League supports SB234*, which decreases concerns about privacy of personal information that could lead people to be hesitant to register or vote.

SJ15 Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting

Currently absentee balloting is the only form of early voting allowed in Connecticut. The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote and therefore encourage efforts to maximize voter participation and early voting. *The League supports SJ15 that would amend the state constitution, to vest the General Assembly with the authority to create an early voting system.*

HB5278 AA Revising Certain Absentee Voting Statutes

The League supports measures which assure that absentee ballot privileges are available to all electors for any reason or no reason at all. *We therefore support HB5278.*

HB5283 AAC Municipal Ethics.

The League of Women Voters' commitment to ethical government and effective public policy informs our strong support for this bill requiring all municipalities to adopt a code of ethics with certain minimum provisions. *The League supports HB5283.*

Opposition to:

SB241 AAC Auditing of Election Day Registration

The League of Women Voters is dedicated to improving the electoral process and maximizing voter participation. The number of voters wishing to use Election Day Registration can be highly unpredictable, opening the possibility for long lines and many citizens denied the opportunity to register and vote. On a busy Election Day, it may be impossible to reach a voter's former town of residence, no matter how often an election day registration official may try. To disenfranchise a voter because their former town is unable to be reached or unable to respond denies a prospective voter the right to vote by a voter who has done nothing other than delayed registering until Election Day. *The League opposes SB241.*